

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-33 are now pending in the application. Claim 5 is now cancelled. Claims 1, 3, and 26 are now amended. Claims 28-33 are now added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While the Office Action is not entirely clear, the Office Action appears to assert that the sources of the first, second, third, and fourth polarized light recited in Claim 1 and Claim 3 is unclear. Applicants disagree with the Office Action, but provide the following explanation to expedite prosecution of this application. With reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only, the first polarized light is external light transmitted through the reflective polarizer 110 (¶ 0066), the second polarized light is external light reflected by the reflective polarizer 110 (¶ 0066), the third polarized light is light transmitted through the polarizer from the backlight 160 (¶¶ 0021, 0082), and the fourth polarized light is light absorbed by the polarizer 150 from the backlight 160 (¶¶ 0021, 0082).

The Office Action states that Claim 3 recites, "transmitting polarization axis varying unit converts at least a part of the third polarized light to the first polarized light." According to the Office Action, "for examining purposes this will mean it changes the

polarization state of the light.” Applicants disagree with this interpretation of Claim 3. The varying unit may or may not convert the polarization state of the light (§ 0082).

Applicants submit that Claims 1 and 3 are in accordance with Section 112. Applicants respectfully request that this Section 112 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

Claims 1-2, 19, 23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kotchick et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,624,936). Claims 3-4, 7, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watson et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0063236). Claims 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative obvious in light of, Watson et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0063236). Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 13-18, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Watson et al. reference and further in view of Kuroiwa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,180). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 3, and 26 are now amended to recite, in part and with reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only as this invention includes various embodiments, a polarized light selecting unit 120 disposed between a polarized light selecting unit 110 and a transmitting polarization axis varying unit 140. The unit 120 transmits light with a polarization plane parallel to the transmission polarization axis of the unit 120 and absorbs light having a polarization axis that is not parallel to the transmission polarization axis of the unit 120. This feature is substantially present in Claim 5, which stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Watson et al. reference and further in view of the Kuroiwa et al. reference.

The Office Action acknowledges that the Watson et al. reference fails to disclose or render obvious the features of Claim 5 alone. See 10-5-04 Office Action at 6. The Office Action asserts that the Kuriowa reference renders Claim 5 obvious. The Kuriowa reference appears to recite a transfective liquid crystal device 100 having a first absorptive polarizer 120 directly on a liquid crystal cell 130.

The Kuriowa reference fails to disclose or suggest, alone or in combination with any of the other cited references, an absorptive polarizer disposed between the polarizer 120 and the LC cell 130, as previously set forth in Claim 5 and now set forth in independent Claims 1, 3, and 26. This arrangement is important to Applicants invention because it provides for operation of Applicants display device 100 in "mirror mode," where a user's image is reflected by the display device 100, and the polarizer 110 specifically, to allow the user to see his/her self. Having a reflective polarizer over a absorptive polarizer reflects the user's image to allow the display 100 to act as a mirror.

The features of Claim 5 are not anticipated or obvious in light of the art of record. Therefore, Applicants now cancel Claim 5 and insert the features of Claim 5 into independent Claims 1, 3, and 26. Therefore, Claims 1, 3, and 26, and those claims dependent therefrom, are now in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 1, 3, 26 and those claims dependent therefrom.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 28 – 33 are now added. New Claims 28 – 33 do not present new matter and are fully supported by the application as filed. Applicants respectfully request entry of Claims 28-33.

New independent Claim 28 recites, in part and with reference to Figure 1 for exemplary purposes only, a first absorption polarizer 150 on one side of an electro-optical panel 140, a reflective polarizer 110 on the other side of the electro-optical panel, and a second absorption polarizer 120 disposed between the reflective polarizer and the electro-optical panel.

The features of Claim 28, such as the positioning of an absorption polarizer between a reflective polarizer and an electro-optical panel, is not anticipated by or obvious in light of the art of record. Therefore, Claim 28 and Claims 29 – 33 dependent therefrom are now in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Dec 28, 2004

By:


G. Gregory Schivley, Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade, Reg. No. 40,344

Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
GGS/BEW/BGS/les